



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St, Rm G-19 · Harrisburg, PA 17110

Upcoming survey information is contained in this release.
You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and
click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA To Measure Farmers' Crop Yields

HARRISBURG, PA, July 10, 2009 - - - Which survey takes only two minutes to complete, yet produces some of the most valuable information farmers rely on during the crop year?

USDA's Agriculture Yield Survey is conducted in all states except Alaska and Hawaii. It is the primary tool used by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to measure crop production throughout the growing season. The survey enables NASS to track and report any changes that occur in expected production due to weather, pests, diseases or other factors. USDA agencies and state Departments of Agriculture use the information to determine crop insurance and disaster aid payments along with other program benefits. Farm organizations also use the information to help form and support policy positions. In Pennsylvania, approximately 400 producers of hay, barley, oats, corn, soybeans, and winter wheat are asked to assist in this important survey each month from August through November.

"Participation of Pennsylvania farmers is imperative to ensure that our production is being accurately measured," said Kevin Pautler, Director of the Pennsylvania Field Office.

Near the end of each month, selected producers will be mailed a pre-survey letter explaining the importance of the survey along with a questionnaire. Operators may return the survey through the mail, complete it through our secure website, or wait to be telephoned or personally visited by an enumerator, who will collect the necessary survey information.

Individual operation information is completely **CONFIDENTIAL** by law. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all survey responses and publishes only state and national level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Kevin Pautler. Complete, accurate and timely reporting by farm operators makes the Agricultural Yield Survey an effective and timely tool for measuring the Nation's crop production.

Results from the surveys will be published in the *Crop Production* report from Washington, D.C. monthly, usually between the 9th and the 12th of the month. Results will also be available on the internet at www.nass.usda.gov. Data from the survey is also available in the *Keystone Ag Digest*. This bi-monthly publication is available from our web site, www.nass.usda.gov/pa.

For more information, contact Sherry Deane at 1-800-498-1518.

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